

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

*Kindly rewrite Claims 1-10 as follows, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121:*

1. (Currently amended) A method for producing an alcohol comprising
- (A) culturing an *Escherichia coli* strain at a temperature between 20 and 30°C, wherein said *Escherichia coli* strain expresses a DNA comprising the Component A, B, and C genes of soluble-type MMO of *Methylococcus capsulatus*,
- (B) contacting ~~an *Escherichia coli* cell~~ cells of said *Escherichia coli* strain or a processed product of ~~the *Escherichia coli* cell~~ cells of said *Escherichia coli* strain with an alkane to convert the alkane into an alcohol, and
- (C) recovering the alcohol.

2-7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently amended) The method for producing an alcohol according to claim 1, wherein said alkane ~~comprises~~ is an alkane having between 1 ~~to~~ and 8 carbon atoms, and said alcohol ~~comprises~~ is an alcohol which is generated by oxidation of the alkane.

9. (Previously presented) The method for producing an alcohol according to claim 8, wherein said alkane is methane, and said alcohol is methanol.

10. (Previously presented) The method for producing an alcohol according to claim 1, wherein said DNA is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, and
- (b) a DNA which hybridizes to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 under stringent conditions comprising washing with 0.1 x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 60°C.